

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 were presented for examination. Claim 1 has been rejected. Claims 2-4 were objected to. Claims 1-3 have been amended. Support for all amendments is found in the specification as originally filed. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims are hereby respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4 include allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their base claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 are now allowable, as is claim 4, which depends from claim 3. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,698,902 (Uehara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,199 (Torii). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the dummy electrode is formed on an extension of a longitudinal axis of the gate electrode. Neither Uehara nor Torii discloses or suggests such an arrangement of a dummy electrode and a gate electrode. To the contrary, Uehara shows, at Fig. 5, that its dummy electrodes 50b are disposed parallel to its gate electrodes 50a. In other words, its dummy electrodes 50b and gate electrodes 50a are not formed along the same longitudinal axis, as claimed. Likewise, the Torii reference does not show a dummy electrode formed along a longitudinal axis of a gate electrode.

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Since neither Uehara nor Torii discloses or suggests the claimed dummy electrode/gate electrode arrangement of amended claim 1, any combination of these references, however made, would still be missing this claimed feature, and it would not have been obvious to add this feature to any Uehara/Torii combination to yield the invention of claim 1.

Consequently, claim 1 is patentable.

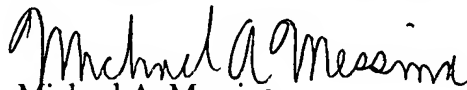
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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